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Equality for Agriculture

Excerpts from a talk by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson before the National Association of Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of Agriculture

If ever there was a time for some hard, clear thinking about the shape of agriculture to come and what we want to do about its basic problems, that time is right now. For we are moving, and swiftly, into a new era. The question is whether or not we are going to be ready for the spectacular changes that are now in the making, whether or not we are going to have our plans and our policies thought out. Are we going to use to the full this chance to build a modern agriculture? Or, are we going to muddle through, allowing the magnificent opportunities of today and tomorrow to slip through our fingers, leaving us with most of the problems and few of the rewards?

There are many fundamental decisions to be made as the whole world surges forward to new technological accomplishments. In agriculture, as in industry, the dynamic pressures of war have resulted in vast increases in the potentials of production. We have to decide how we are going to direct that production. Many—in fact, most—of the decisions are overdue. And I want to emphasize that these decisions cannot be left entirely to Washington, D. C. The policies that are formed now, the plans that are made, will affect the lives and the fortunes of all of us, wherever we live and whatever we do, and we all should have a voice—an informed, articulate voice—in forming the judgments. The Federal Government cannot, and should not, do everything. What it does do should be the distillate of careful judgment all over the Nation; it should be coordinated with plans and policies going forward in communities, counties, States, and re-

gions as they survey their postwar situation.

The question that is foremost in my mind today is one that requires much solid grass-roots consideration before we can get the final answer. That is the question of economic equality for agriculture. That question must be answered before we can plan ahead; the goal we set for agriculture's economic equality becomes the foundation on which all policies and programs will be based.

Now I know that all of us here, and probably every person in any line of work in the United States, agrees with and approves the general idea that farmers are entitled to economic equality with other sectors of our population. Like virtue, everybody is in favor of it.

But, when we seek to define "economic equality," when we try to nail down this plank in concrete terms of dollars and cents, percentages and shares, we find that the term means different things to different men and different groups. Many farmers would say: "It means that farmers should receive parity prices" . . . or . . . "It means that farmers should receive a fair share of the national income."

Those are good answers; they have been the standard answers of agriculture for a number of years. The only trouble is, just what do we mean by "parity"? Just what constitutes a "fair share of the national income"? You can get into many-sided, fruitless arguments over the current meanings of those terms that lie behind economic equality for agriculture.

Thus, before we can get definite goals and aims for agriculture in the exciting, changing years ahead, it seems to me that we must first conscientiously re-examine and redefine our basic terms to give them clear, accurate, and modern meaning. We need to get our formulas straight, so that we are all talking the same language. Only then can we do an intelligent, forward-looking job of bringing our old methods up to date and devising new ones, to reach "economic equality" . . . whatever it may be.

There seems little, if any, doubt that the time is here to see beyond the statistical complexities and make parity actually mean something; to base it on enduring human values; to recognize that our expanding economy, industrially and agriculturally, is dynamic and not static; that we must have goals that clearly recognize the need for constant shifting in the price position between different agricultural commodities to adjust for changed conditions; and that these goals facilitate—not obstruct—desirable agricultural adjustments.

How are we going to do it? That is what I am asking you, and all others who are interested in agriculture—individual farmers, county groups of farmers, State farm leaders, national farm groups. Action on legal definitions of parity is the responsibility of Congress, but Congress cannot be expected to write a modern parity policy unless some unity is developed in the thinking of all of us who are concerned with that important subject.

We can't waste any time; we can't drift along until the problems now ahead overwhelm and panic us with their urgency. Now—right now—is the time to dig up facts, to appraise them honestly, to develop needed unity in our thinking, and to make sound plans for the future of a strong and prosperous modern agriculture.

Building for tomorrow

Story County, Iowa, Planning Council pools energy and skill of all to build well for the future

DR. W. H. STACY, Extension Sociologist, Iowa

■ Success in war has depended on our ability to produce and destroy. Success in peace will depend on our ability to produce and build. In war we seek materialistic power. In peace we must promote spiritual human and social values. Results in promoting these things are not easy to achieve and not easy to measure. But on them depends an expansion of programs which provide jobs and satisfactions. New methods, new leadership, and a new spirit are all needed to promote cooperative effort toward this end.

Ways of cooperating in a democracy are legion. The Story County, Iowa, Planning Council has tried some of them and found them good. The council got its start back in 1944 when 30 county and community leaders who attended a Story County Council of Defense meeting agreed to establish a county veterans information service and referral center and to organize a county postwar planning council.

Steering Committee Outlines Plans

Original plans were outlined by a steering committee composed of two officers of the county council of defense and the county agent. Soon after it was organized it received substantial financial support from the county bankers association and the county farm bureau. County board of supervisors gave some supplies.

The council has tried to do three things: promote community action on postwar problems, correlate county-wide problems and relate postwar planning in Story County to State, regional, and national programs.

In promoting community action, co-ordinating councils have already been established in three towns. In addition, an adult education class in community planning met regularly for 11 weeks at Story City. Out of this developed a city planning commission. The county planning council meetings have been rotated to different towns with local groups cooperating as co-sponsors and this arrangement has helped to promote community action.

One way in which county-wide pro-

grams are correlated is by representation on the planning council of 16 different county-wide programs. These are all listed on the letterhead and include such organizations as the American Legion, ministerial association, bankers association, school masters club, board of supervisors, federated women's clubs, and farm bureau. Meeting together on the first Thursday night of each month, these men and women are coming to have a better understanding of established lines of work and at the same time promoting new interests.

How this works out was illustrated in the plans for returning veterans. Plans were proposed in November for sending inquiries and Christmas greetings to men and women in military services. These suggestions were used by community committees in 10 communities. Summaries of replies were published in the local papers. Joint meetings were held with the Story County veterans service information and referral center committee.

A statement on Education for Returning Veterans was prepared in May and mailed to 140 farm bureau and extension cooperators, 30 ministers, 12 women's club leaders, 12 bankers, all mayors and city clerks, all school superintendents and Ames war dads. This presented a summary of postwar plans of the schools in the county written by the president of the county school masters club and a digest of GI educational and training programs.

Survey of Job Opportunities Made

A report was also prepared on the immediate postwar employment opportunities in Story County. This statement was signed by a committee including the county agent, the United States Employment Service representative and the county engineer. It reported six lines of work where more men were needed and presented a chart of major types of services for veterans. This was given wide circulation through newspaper publicity and letters to 400 leaders.

A survey of postwar building plans

of churches was made in cooperation with the county ministerial association. According to this information, the churches planned to spend approximately \$500,000 on postwar improvements.

A county health committee was established at the July meeting of the council. These 5 county leaders are working with the State department of health in a study of the local situation and in developing plans for an adequate health program.

At an early meeting of the county council it was agreed that postwar works programs should be geared in with and not compete with industrial development. The city manager of Ames, the largest town in the county, has accepted the chairmanship of the county public works program committee. Problems in developing sewage disposal systems in small towns were considered at the July council meeting.

Another activity was started at a joint meeting with the county conservation committee in August when action was taken to promote a parkway providing picnic areas, fishing spots, and scenic drives.

An effort has been made to relate county action to State, regional, and national programs by bringing a speaker from outside the county to eight of the monthly council meetings. These speakers are active in regional and national planning and have brought their judgments and recommendations to bear on local planning.

Tree-planting contests

Wyoming reports 24 entries in the W. C. Deming farm shelterbelt planting contest and 15 entries in the farm or ranch home beautification and improvement contest, according to W. O. Edmondson, agricultural extension specialist in horticulture and forestry.

Most of the tree plantings made in 1945 and entered in the contests were carefully cultivated and cared for.

Improvements such as the remodeling of farm dwellings, painting of buildings, lawn plantings and care, fence building, and the planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers have been entered in the home beautification and improvement contest.

The contests began in 1945, when W. C. Deming of Cheyenne presented \$6,000 to the University of Wyoming for annual awards to be made during the next 17 years.

Texas agents learn welding

Initial steps to promote more extensive home maintenance of farm equipment were taken at a 3-day short course in arc and gas welding at Texas A. and M. College in August. The course was for county agricultural agents and was the first of its kind held in Texas. The purpose was to familiarize county agricultural agents with the principles of welding in order to qualify them to demonstrate it at farm shops in their counties. From the experience of such demonstrations it was believed farmers would be able to save time and expense by making many necessary repairs in their own shops or in the field.

The agents who took the full course were: W. K. Cottingame of Carson County; C. O. Reed of Donley; A. P. Bralley of Potter; H. G. Wills of Ochiltree; V. E. Hafner of Childress; J. P. Smith of Gray; J. A. Spence of Hartley; Fred C. Elliott of Victoria; U. L. Thompson of Hunt; J. H. Surovik of Parker; L. A. Weiss of Refugio, and J. O. Stovall of Jackson. The first seven were from the Panhandle area, the largest grain-growing region of Texas.

The sessions were held in the mechanical engineering shops of A. and M. College under the direction of Prof. C. W. Crawford, head of the mechanical engineering department, and Assistant Professor D. W. Fleming. The short course was arranged by a committee consisting of Knox

Parr, district agent for extension district one; Extension Service Agricultural Engineer M. R. Bentley, and R. B. Hickerson of the Extension Service farm labor staff.

The course consisted of practice periods daily with welding and cutting equipment, talks by representatives of equipment companies and members of the staff of the mechanical engineering department, and showing of

moving pictures portraying details of welding techniques.

The demonstrations which county agricultural agents plan to give will have the twofold objective of instructing farmers and ranchmen in the problems involved in the use of welding equipment and broadening their knowledge and techniques in employing it to repair and maintain farm machinery. In this work the county agents will have the assistance of experts from regional farm equipment houses.

Texas county agents had a chance to practice welding at a 3-day short course.



Welcome home for Christmas

Christmas is here again—the first Christmas since VJ-day. The holly wreath is hung out. The homes of the country resound with excitement and good cheer in a very special way for the men who are coming home from the war.

Husbands, sons, and brothers join the family circle for the first time in years. Peace has come again, reunited families throughout the land celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace.

This is also the season of extension conferences; and at every one familiar faces reappear—men back from Europe, the Pacific islands, the

far corners of the earth—men glad to be home, anxious to make up for lost time, to find out what has happened while they were gone. Their homecoming infuses new life into the hard-pressed agents who were left behind, agents trying to do two men's work to keep things going. Some will not return, and their absence presses upon us the cause for which they gave their lives.

We pause at this Christmas season to rejoice that we are together again. Together we vow to make good the sacrifice of those who do not return. Together we shall extend the spirit of Christmas into a lasting peace for

the world. The good fellowship of Christmas time will strengthen the soul for the pressing problems ahead.

THE SECOND CLOTHING COLLECTION scheduled for next month is sorely needed for the destitute peoples in war-torn sections of the world. Many rural people are getting more pleasure out of their gift by planning to include a letter of good will to the new user of their coat, suit, or dress. These letters may bring almost as much warmth to the heart of a suffering people as the clothing brings warmth to their bodies.

Home-grown on Saipan

1st LT. HARLAN R. KOCH, USMC
and
S. SGT. SANFORD OPOTOWSKY, USMC

Lieutenant Koch was a county agent in Marshall and Mitchell Counties, Iowa, before the war.

■ On the concrete floor of an open-air pavilion on Saipan, a group of Japanese and Chamorro civilians sit cross-legged listening to an American Civil Affairs officer. When he finishes, some of the men get up to speak. An interpreter listens carefully.

"Not enough tools..." one man says. "The bugs," another complains. "We need a remedy." "That supervisor doesn't get along with our people," a vehement little man protests. "Can't we have someone else?"

The men are foremen on one of the most unusual farms in the world—a 300-acre tract from which the people of Saipan are getting home-grown vegetables and home-grown democracy for the first time in their history.

The officer, Lt. (j.g.) John Z. Williams of New York City, is a stubby little man, not as tall as most of his charges. He wipes a perspiring face and grins. It is not easy—getting these people used to the idea of self-government. One of our primary objectives in occupied Pacific areas is to keep the natives occupied and productive, and in so doing to wean them away from an authoritarian habit of government. They take it seriously. The unpopular supervisor is an example. He was appointed temporarily by American authorities. He is, himself, Japanese.

Lieutenant Williams promises his foremen an election in which they can choose their own supervisor. The result is a man who is doing a good and efficient job.

Saipan was the first of our Pacific conquests where a sizable civilian population was encountered. About 15,000 of the Saipan natives are Japanese; the remaining 5,000 are Chamorros, a mixture of Spanish and Polynesian stock.

Self-sufficiency is the first objective, for the United States has enough to do feeding its millions of soldiers and sailors in the Pacific. The Saipan farm has proved that a people who never before grew a balanced diet sufficient for their own needs can be taught scientific agriculture. In doing

the internees now get the technical advice and help of experts from leading American agricultural experiment stations. We furnish seeds, fertilizer, a few tools (most of the farming is by hand). The natives do all the work. We don't pamper them. Men, women, children, grandma all spend their days



The ox-pulled plow is the only implement not worked by hand on the Japanese and Chamorro farms on Saipan.

this, democracy has become a valuable byproduct. From planting the seed to selling the produce, natives run the show.

When U. S. marines and soldiers conquered the island, Saipan had a one-crop economy—sugarcane. Most food was imported from the homeland. The few vegetable gardens on the island were scrubby and unproductive.

Civil Affairs has changed this, and

Produce is brought daily to the market place on Saipan.

in the fields. Now drainage, crop rotation, and fertilization are ultrascientific. Produce is brought daily to a market place where United States officials buy it at a standard price, paying in American currency.

There is no black market on Saipan. Here is what the natives are paid for their food: Peanuts (the highest-paid crop on the island) are worth 5 cents a pound. Tomatoes, beans, cantaloup,



and corn bring 3 cents a pound. Pineapple, lettuce, radishes, onions, watermelon, and spinach are priced at 2 cents; and pumpkin, bananas, squash, and eggplant can be bought for a cent a pound.

Only a fraction of the internees work on the farm, but our authorities plan to increase the acreage when the military situation permits. And from the labor of this group all civilians on the island are fed.

The most desirable prospects were chosen for the experiment—families who had the best farms before we came. Ninety-four plots are allotted to the Japanese and 24 to the Chas-

morros. Native tools, such as the plows and hoes, were gathered and repaired by the farmers themselves. Each family also has an ox from the island herd for use as a draft animal.

A field kitchen prepares the noonday meal; and a representative from each family, often a child, queues up in the "chow line" with a makeshift container. When the food is dished out he takes it to the family plot, where it is supplemented with fruits and vegetables grown on the spot.

"These people are keeping their own culture while learning the American way of doing things," Lieutenant Williams says. "We treat them firmly but fairly."

"What's back of all this? Things like this just don't happen."

The newcomer was right; this history-making evening didn't just happen. It was the culmination of a series of community meetings held throughout Washington County. Jean Watt, home demonstration agent, and Albert Kniese, county agent, had an idea!

Working with their county 4-H Club Council, they divided the county into nine communities in which two to seven 4-H Clubs were represented. Then they invited the whole community to meet to see 4-H Club work in action, to become acquainted and to play together.

Three meetings were held during the winter in each community, usually in centrally located school gymnasiums with crowds varying from 100 to 225.

Each series of meetings was sufficiently varied in nature to keep an audience interested. A typical meeting consisted of two 4-H demonstrations given by two outstanding 4-H boys and two girls. Short informative talks concerning 4-H were given by the county agent and home demonstration agent; group singing was enjoyed, and several short movies were shown on various topics of interest to all ages. Square dancing and a lunch were enjoyed by all attending.

Guam agricultural school

Lt. Ralph Gross of Kansas, formerly Rooks County agent, wrote the following agricultural story September 10 in a letter from Guam.

■ Today we started a school in the battalion. I am supervisor of the agricultural school, and we have about 35 enrollments. I am instructing the course in beef production. The boys all seem very much interested, and I think that I shall have a lot of fun teaching it. I miss having a library on which to rely for supplementary information. I have been away from agricultural work for so long that I am a bit rusty. At the same time, my other duties are a bit heavy also.

It would be nice if we had some good farms and some good livestock on which to work here. They do have an FEA farm on the island, which raises vegetables. They fertilize rather heavily. They do no contour farming; neither do they carry out any soil conservation practices.

They do have a herd of 65 Holstein cows, 5 Brown Swiss, and a Holstein and a Brahma bull. They are all imported from Stateside, and they intend to cross the Brahma, which is supposed to be a milking strain, with the cows to see what results they obtain. The Holsteins do not seem to be standing the heat very well and are pretty thin, but the Swiss seem to do all right. These cows are kept in a dry lot. I don't know what they use for grain, but they have Napier grass which is run through an ensilage cutter and fed to them. Napier grass has a carrying capacity of about 10 cows per acre, and looks much like

Johnson grass. The milk, about 1,500 pounds daily, is all used in the hospital on the island.

On this farm they also have about 800 hogs which were brought in here last spring as weanling pigs. They get nothing but garbage, but they look like pretty good hogs. I understand that this number of hogs is only about one-twentieth enough to take care of all the garbage produced on the island. The gilts will be bred and put out with native farmers who will return 3 or 4 pigs in exchange. The Japs pretty well cleaned out all the livestock on the island, so in this way it is hoped to get some reestablished. There is also a poultry farm on the island, but I have not had opportunity to visit it.

It is still as hot as ever . . . The prospects for getting home seem to be getting slimmer all the time. Now it looks as if we will be moving on before long and become a part of the occupation forces. In that case it is hard to tell when we will be getting home. This is an old outfit with lots of points; but if they do go home, I may have to stay here as I have only 66 points.

4-H Club square dance

When 700 persons entered the Akron, Colo., high school gymnasium last summer to attend and participate in the 4-H Club-sponsored square dance contest, a newcomer asked:

Nebraska 4-H baby beef served in Chicago schools

L. I. Frisbie, Nebraska State 4-H Club leader, recently received the following letter from F. O. Washam, director of lunchrooms of the Chicago public schools:

"I assure you that it was a pleasure to participate in the sale of 4-H Club cattle at the Nebraska State Fair. We, in the city, know that in a large measure America's future security lies in our ability to successfully encourage our country cousins to stay on the farm and raise an adequate food supply for our urban centers.

"We give the purchase of these 4-H Club cattle wide publicity in our public school lunchrooms through photographs of the cattle and their feeders, blown up and displayed in our lunchrooms, and through stories published in our school papers. We believe the 4-H Club is doing a great work. We want to encourage it.

Reconversion in Extension

BENJAMIN F. CREECH, Extension Animal Husbandman, West Virginia

At the annual conference of West Virginia extension agents at Jackson's Mill, October 15-18, Benjamin F. Creech, extension animal husbandman, presented problems that extension workers will have during the reconversion period. A portion of his address is given here.

The sudden end of the world conflict has brought the Agricultural Extension Service and its program to another cross road. We find ourselves no better prepared for the reconversion than many other government agencies. To do its full share in helping to win the war, agriculture expanded its activities tremendously. The Extension Service took on additional jobs and responsibilities and extended its efforts in production and related activities.

Now we are faced with the problem of adjustments, reconversion, and the retooling of our organization so that we may make our maximum contribution to a peacetime economy in promoting agriculture just as we did so effectively in war.

The Extension Service has the job and responsibility of pointing the way for the reconversion of agriculture and rural living. This is a job of planning, administration, and teaching that should challenge each one of us to the full limits of our abilities.

Must Make Adjustments

We must put our house in order for a peacetime program in agriculture that will challenge rural people. To do this effectively, each extension worker will first have to make some personal adjustments in his thinking, planning, work habits, attitudes, and relationships with other agricultural agencies. The personal equation may be the most difficult part of the reconversion program for us to overcome and attain. If we are to be successful in our job, we must give it our full time and not have business or commercial activities on the side.

After we have reconditioned ourselves, how are we going to do the big job of helping rural people to achieve their goals and ambitions of life? Extension agents work with farm families on the farm and in the home, and they need to think in terms of the welfare of the entire family rather than of any individual or seg-

ment of the family. We cannot get our job done by sitting in our offices, for we must know first-hand the problems that farm families are tussling with if we are to give them assistance and guidance. If Extension is to hold its high place in the educational field, we must go forward as leaders and teachers of rural people, and not just as followers and trouble shooters.

In our reconversion there are some tools and programs that probably should be salvaged from the war effort and retained as a fundamental part of our peacetime extension program.

The Three "J" Techniques

Among the greatest teaching devices applied to agriculture during the war were the three "J" techniques:

Job Instruction Training—How to teach a person to do a thing.

Job Methods Training—How to improve the way to do a job, finding shorter, easier, and quicker ways.

Job Relations Training—How to work with people on a job.

A number of our extension workers have taken one or more of these courses. If an extension worker feels the need for improving his teaching methods, such as demonstrations, talks, farm and home visits, or preparation of news letters, then he should take the course in Job Instruction Training. To obtain the highest standard of professional efficiency he should take at least the appreciation course in each of the three "J's."

The war has been won, but the struggle for safe living—safer working conditions—has not been won; and nowhere is the problem of safety more important than on the farm. An analysis of the accidents reported in West Virginia for this year indicates rather clearly that at least 75 percent of them were caused by carelessness. With 25 percent of accidental deaths occurring in agriculture and 25 percent of all home accidental deaths occurring in farm homes, it is crystal clear that somebody should get busy.

There is no educational agency so well qualified to promote a farm and home safety program with rural people as is the Extension Service, and extension workers should be willing to tackle this humane job in an organized way. A well-executed program under the guidance of the extension agricultural engineer offers the opportunity to serve our fellow men.

The value of good organization and coordination in agriculture, with wise leadership, was demonstrated during the war period. A well-organized community with intelligent leadership is the first essential of a successful extension program. Extension workers need to work more with organized groups, the county workers helping farm people to set up community organizations and to build a program that meets the needs of the community.

The community meeting can be made the most effective place for the extension worker to do his teaching and sell his program. County extension workers should attend and participate in an average of two or more community meetings each week.

I believe that the best extension teaching is still done with a well-planned and well-executed demonstration. What an opportunity a community meeting offers an extension worker to put on a good demonstration, using visual aids, for a good enthusiastic community meeting is the best place in the world to sell the extension program.

Visits to Teach Practices

Farm and home visits also offer an excellent opportunity, and too many of them are not well planned and executed. Each visit should result in teaching a good practice or the exchange of information and ideas. With an organized plan such visits are an effective means of developing leadership with farm people.

The major portion of county extension workers' time should be spent in field work, probably 2 days each week being sufficient to keep up with office routine. The county extension staff should hold weekly conferences so as to keep all members well informed on the county program, and monthly or quarterly meetings of all agricultural agencies should be held.

A good secretary, if properly trained and given responsibility, can handle many details in the county extension office and will give the professional

worker more time to do important jobs. With a little guidance she can answer miscellaneous correspondence, requests for publications, and the like. If she is kept informed, she can take care of many office calls when agents are out of the office. County extension offices should be handled in a businesslike way and with efficiency, and the secretaries should be given instructions in managing the office. Supervisors should work out a uniform plan and system with county extension workers for the training and supervision of office secretaries.

The challenge to us today is—are we willing to make the reconversions necessary so as to equip ourselves to help farm people make the inevitable adjustments that must follow if they are to have the good things of life and to enjoy a standard of living that is comparable to other segments of society.

Quick spot radio checks

Spot surveys are used to determine the usefulness of the daily agricultural radio program of the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell. This program is presented from 12:15 to 1 p. m. over the Cornell University station.

Questionnaires were sent recently to 750 farmers in Tompkins and 5 surrounding counties. The survey was conducted by the county agricultural agents, and questionnaires were sent to every fifth or sixth name on their mailing list. Of the 222 who answered, 115 or more than 50 percent listened regularly to the program. One hundred and twelve wanted more short agricultural news items; 70 wanted more home-economics information on the program. Only a small percentage wanted more entertainment features on the agricultural program. These folks did not want household information given on the same program and wanted all the crop, market, and weather reports they needed given on this one program. Of those answering, 100 said they sometimes wrote for bulletins and pamphlets.

The replies are not necessarily representative of the farm group as a whole, but the Cornell staff feel that it does give some idea of what the farmer wants to listen to, and they plan to make such spot surveys every once in a while among different groups of farmers.



A CHINESE VILLAGE. *Martin C. Yang.*
263 pp. *Columbia University Press.*

■ One cannot fully understand China by reading books about it. Yet, in *A Chinese Village*, Dr. Yang has succeeded in writing a work which, if studied, read, and reread by the conscientious student, serves the practical purpose of conveying to the occidental mind a picture of rural China, its past, its problems, and its possibilities. I have been in China, but I have never felt that I understood Chinese rural culture as I do since getting acquainted, in Dr. Yang's book, with the village of Taitou; the P'an, Ch'eng, Yang, and Liu clans; and the importance of ancestors and one's responsibility to them in China.

I am one of those who is confident that great good will come to the Chinese people through the introduction of agricultural and homemaking extension work. At the same time, I am aware that, unless the cultural factors that have served as a basis

for Chinese rural living for many centuries are kept in mind in the development of Chinese extension programs, extension work there could not accomplish what it did for us here. Dr. Yang has performed a great service for the future development of our democratic type of extension work in Asia.

He has intimately acquainted us with the ways of life that have preserved the ancient Chinese civilization. But he has not held back in criticizing those phases of Chinese traditionalism which have been a stumbling block to its progress and advancement along modern lines.

A Chinese Village is one of the truly great works which every agriculturist, educator, and professional worker in government and related fields will want to have in his postwar library. I recommend it to every extension worker.—*M. L. Wilson, Director, Cooperative Extension Service.*

Successful rural youth program

■ The Cheyenne County, Nebr. Rural Youth group was organized in January 1944 when nine young people met and discussed the need for such an organization. About half the group were former 4-H members; the remainder had had no contact with 4-H work and had never been enrolled in 4-H Clubs.

Soon after organization, the officers met with the county agent and the home demonstration agent and planned the program for the year. The first year's program consisted of talks on highway safety by members of the Highway Patrol; OPA and its place in wartime economy; panel discussion, local government; roller-skating parties; a steak fry and picnics.

In 1945, with 39 members, the program plans included motion pictures by the USES, showing wartime jobs in essential industries; a Christmas party; Jap relocation problems, which were discussed by the wife of the commanding officer at the Sioux

Ordnance Depot; chemurgy; farm topics; Federal Bureau of Investigation, its organization and duties, discussed by a representative of the FBI; a waffle supper, bowling, and picnics for the summer months.

The community service project chosen for the year consisted of taking over the North Platte Canteen for one day in cooperation with the Perkins County Rural Youth group. Money was raised to finance this project by a box social at which 21 boxes were sold for \$129.25.

■ MRS. HELEN D. CRANDALL resigned from her position as State home demonstration agent in New Mexico, after 8 years on the extension staff, to devote her full time to her own home. Elsie Cunningham, a former county home demonstration agent in Texas, was appointed to the position as State home demonstration agent September 1. Several years ago Miss Cunningham was a farm security supervisor in New Mexico.

Texas women buy pineapples cooperatively



More than 28,000 Texas farm women took part in the cooperative buying of pineapples this last year. About two-thirds of the women were members of home demonstration clubs and the others were friends who heard about it and wanted to take part. The activity is carried out by county home demonstration council marketing committees working with county home demonstration agents and under the supervision of Myrtle Murray, specialist in home industries.

The pooling of orders for pineapples was begun 2 years ago and has proved so popular that the same procedure is being carried out for the buying of peaches and other seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Committee Lists Orders

When there is enough interest in community home demonstration clubs, the county marketing committees contact local dealers and importers to find out the price. Orders for pineapples are listed by the local club marketing chairman and money and order sent to the county committee.

This year most of the council marketing committees sent trucks to Laredo, Texas, for their pineapples. Two county commissioners in Coman-

che went after the pineapples, charging the actual cost of operating the truck and their own expenses. In Motley County, a local businessman made the trip for a nominal sum. In Austin County the vocational agricultural teacher drove the truck. Sometimes a trucker from Laredo delivered the pineapples.

The pineapples are grown in Mexico. Probably 90 percent of those brought into Texas come through the port of entry at Laredo. There they are inspected for insects and disease, then by the pure food and drug officials for bruise, over-ripeness and black heart. After passing inspection at the border, the pineapples are ready to be shipped out according to orders on file by the various council marketing committees.

As soon as the word is received the club marketing chairman is notified so that buyers can be on hand to receive their pineapples. Sometimes they fail to arrive because of confusion in handling orders at the border, or the pineapple trains are delayed in Mexico. In Orange County, buyers waited three separate days for the pineapples to arrive. In Jones County, the number of pounds bought was delivered, and the marketing committee had ordered by the dozen. They found themselves several dozens short.

Only four hours were needed to unload and count the 325 dozen pineapples ordered in Erath County. Collingsworth County chose a cooperative gin as a delivery point using the different runways for various clubs. The pineapples were stacked and ready for distribution. An assembly line was formed and the pineapples counted out to the clubs. In two and a half hours the truck was unloaded and by mid-afternoon some of the pineapples were already in cans.

In spite of the problems involved the distribution method worked out by these local marketing committees is an accomplishment of which they can be proud. They proved to be good managers and also they have profited by their mistakes and developed a better system the next year.

In all of the communities taking part, an intensive informational campaign is put on through the press, the radio, the home demonstration clubs on how to can pineapple and pineapple juice, and how to use the product to vary the menu.

The same method of pooling orders was used for peaches this year, 7,333 bushels having been delivered in 29 counties. Several council marketing committees have bought a few hundred lugs of apricots and cherries, and many planned to buy apples this fall.

While not all the reports paint a rosy picture they do indicate that the distribution systems arranged by the marketing committees have proved their value.

Iowa girls set bond goals

The Iowa 4-H girls this year say they're going to sell enough bonds to pay for a C-54 Skymaster. That means \$310,000 in bonds by the close of the Victory Loan Drive.

This past year they topped their goal of \$1,054,000 in bonds by more than \$200,000. Now they're out to do it again.

The C-54 they expect to finance is a huge evacuation plane to carry the wounded from war theaters and hospitals overseas to hospitals in this country. It's a worthy goal that all clubs are proud to strive for.

National recognition has been given to the successful results of the Iowa 4-H girls' bond campaign last year—Bonds Buy Mercy. Now they've set up another challenging goal.

Young leaders trained

A community where young people like to live is one where they can work and play together. The ability and the facilities for both playing and working together are being cultivated by Maryland young people. It has been found true that leaders trained in directing recreation can carry over their skill into the field of working together.

The 4-H leaders' training schools have proved both popular and an effective way of training leaders. Started during the war years to meet an immediate need, they were sponsored by the senior 4-H council and State 4-H leaders.

Kent County Plays Games

During the winter of 1943, a "learn by playing" program was followed by a group of 30 older Kent County 4-H members who met one night each week under the direction of Assistant County Agent Stanley E. Sutton to learn to play and conduct group games. This group became the foundation of other groups throughout the county. During the spring and summer of 1944, about 3,000 persons attended the 4-H play parties and recreation hours of other groups which asked 4-H leaders to help. Beginning in November, recreation schools were offered for all organizations of the county. All 4-H Clubs, eight churches, parent-teacher organizations, minutemen, five Scout troops, and home-makers' clubs were represented in three schools.

Following these schools, a county-wide Senior 4-H Club was organized with Theodore Redman as president, Martha Lumpkin as vice president, and Joyce Dill as secretary-treasurer. The purpose of this group is to continue to learn new games and improve their leadership ability.

At present, the scope of the work is being enlarged and carried out on an inter-county scale. So far, three inter-county schools for recreation leaders have been held.

The school held at Easton, began on February 19 and continued for 4 successive Monday nights for representatives from four Eastern Shore counties—Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, and Dorchester. Group recrea-

tion of the "play party" type was considered at the school. Half of the time was devoted to learning folk games and dances, the other half to discussions of "how" and "why" in leading games.

The idea of the school was developed by Stanley B. Sutton, following a visit a year ago to a 1½-day meeting of the recreation leaders' training school held at Westminster for the Western Shore counties. That school also was sponsored by the senior 4-H council and the Maryland Extension Service.

The result of this contact was the leaders' training school at Easton, which was attended by 54 persons, 7 of whom were extension agents. The 4 participating counties were limited to 12 4-H representatives apiece.

A registration fee of \$1.25 per person provided a Handy Play Party Book, cost \$1, and a small book, All Join Hands, at 15 cents; and the remaining 10 cents was paid for janitor service. The school was held in the auditorium of the county building at Easton.

The first session was devoted to get-acquainted games. The discussion of leadership fundamentals, especially those pertaining to leading recreation, was demonstrated at later meetings, as "ice breakers" or "mixers" were learned and used.

On the second Monday night, the school considered the circle type of folk game and discussed the technique of leadership and the social value of the "circles." The third night, the leadership group learned reel or "longways" formations, and the last night, was "square" night.

Leaders Improve Skill

When the school itself ended, the group of 4-H leaders attending it made plans to continue the work which they began there. Members of the school met as teams in their respective counties, to learn by doing the games introduced at the school, in order to be prepared to conduct games when the opportunity came and to teach other county groups as they were ready. They planned to take advantage of every chance to broaden their knowledge and improve their skill in leading group recreation, and to become so competent as 4-H groups that other community organizations could be helped in county-wide schools this winter.

Finally, to encourage a spirit of 4-H fellowship, it was decided to hold during the year four "five counties" activities, which will include Kent County as well as the four counties represented at the school. The first of these, a spring play party, was held at the Easton High School on March 27.

A county-wide picnic and vesper service were held in the summer and a campfire around Labor Day. Preparations are now under way for a Christmas party.



Local leaders can do the job

MADGE J. REESE, Field Agent, Western States

■ Who knew that the timid farm woman when persuaded 6 years ago to act as clothing project leader of a 4-H Club or the food project leader of the home demonstration group in her community, would now represent her community at meetings considering important problems of great concern to the rural and urban population of her county and State? Yet in many cases that is just what a home demonstration agent sees happen. Perhaps in the heart and mind of the timid woman herself was a spark of ambition that made her want to learn how to guide her family in such a way that they would call her blessed. Perhaps she had a desire to learn how to serve her community well and win the commendation of friends and neighbors, and perhaps the encouragement and faith of a home demonstration agent helped.

11 Western States Studied

A study of leadership developed through home demonstration work in the 11 Western States brought out some interesting facts. This study was made from 21 selected counties. The information was taken from annual reports, with additional information from the State home demonstration leaders.

The average number of regular home demonstration groups in these counties was 25, and the average number of girls 4-H Clubs was 27. The home demonstration agents met 5 times with home demonstration groups and 3 times with girls' 4-H Clubs during the year. All other meetings of these groups were conducted by local leaders without the presence of the home demonstration agent. In addition, local leaders gave instructions on victory gardening; and food-preservation meetings conducted by local women leaders averaged in the 21 counties 160 for adults and 248 for 4-H Club girls in the war year of 1944. The total attendance at these meetings per county averaged 3,154 women and 2,437 4-H Club girls.

The carefully planned training meetings for local leaders by home economics specialists and county home

demonstration agents and the special individual training by agents in the home and at the office brought results in developing competent leadership. The number of meetings and individual training had a direct relation to the number on the staff. In counties with assistant home demonstration agents, more local-leader training meetings were held. The average during the year was 16 training meetings for local leaders in home demonstration work and 9 for 4-H Club leaders in each county. Some training was of course also done in home visits.

An impression gained from the study is that leadership for officers of groups who preside at meetings and make general arrangements is usually available, but that project leadership involving considerably more time, study, and work on the part of leaders is more difficult to obtain.

Practically nothing in the reports indicated that special recognition is given local leaders in one way or another. Perhaps agents take this as a matter of course as far as reporting is concerned. In a few county reports,

statistics indicate a good number of local leaders, yet the narrative reports in no way featured the work or activities of the local leaders. Perhaps more recognition would help.

The 21 counties in the Western States checked for leadership development were: Pima County, Ariz.; Merced and Stanislaus Counties, Calif.; Jefferson and Weld Counties, Colo.; Cascade and Yellowstone Counties, Mont.; Churchill and Washoe Counties, Nev.; Coos and Josephine Counties, Oreg.; Cache and Utah Counties, Utah; Spokane and Thurston Counties, Wash.; Goshen and Park Counties, Wyo.; Canyon and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho; Eddy and Roosevelt Counties, N. Mex.

Such situations incident to the war as rural women doing more farm work, devoting more time to food production and food preservation, lack of transportation facilities, and family anxiety have not noticeably lessened the amount of time and effort so generously given by the local leaders in the above counties. They and local leaders throughout the country might well be awarded a citation. They have served their communities, their counties, their States, and their nation well.

New oat varieties grown

T. R. STANTON, Agronomist

Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering

■ During recent years, great progress has been made in the breeding and distribution of new oat varieties with resistance to disease and lodging and with higher yield and better grain quality. The development of these varieties has made oats generally a much more satisfactory crop, especially in the North Central States where four-fifths of the oats of the United States are produced. The Federal and State Extension Services have done much to facilitate the rapid distribution of these new varieties through the publication of extension circulars, radio broadcasts, and county agent contacts. The efficiency of Extension publication channels is shown by the estimate that the group of similar new disease-resistant varieties, including Boone, Cedar, Control, Tama, Vicland, and Vikota,

were grown on 15 million acres in 1944 and on 25 million acres in 1945, whereas Boone, the first of the varieties, was first released to Iowa farmers in 1940.

Never before in the history of American agriculture have new improved varieties of a small grain crop so rapidly replaced inferior older varieties.

Commercial seed companies have also done much to promote the distribution of seed of the new varieties. Likewise, various farmer cooperatives have played a part in their distribution, especially in introducing them to farmers in areas somewhat remote from the North Central States, for example, Pennsylvania and New York. One cereal manufacturing company has issued leaflets and information on the new varieties and has been exchanging

seed of the new varieties for seed of the old varieties, bushel for bushel.

Throughout the States in which oats are grown, including the winter oats States of the South, county agents have become familiar with the revolution in oat production brought about by the breeding of improved disease-resistant varieties.

Various forms of extension work thus have played a vital role in increasing production of this feed crop during the war period by getting farmers to grow the new varieties to the advantage of themselves as well as the Nation. During the past 3 years, when additional feeding units were essential for the maximum production of all classes of livestock,

this extension work has paid real dividends.

A bumper oat crop was produced in 1945. This was indicated by federal and private reporting agencies. Yields of 60 to 75 bushels per acre of oats weighing as high as 40 to 42 pounds to the measured bushel are common.

The work of improving oat varieties continues as varieties resistant to other diseases than rust and smut and to new races of these diseases must be developed to safeguard and advance the gains already made. The continued close cooperation between the research and extension will be needed to make the fullest use of new developments.

Showing what beginners can do, Mrs. T. E. Massey of Calhoun County displayed her pantry stores during the week. The Massey family had never raised a garden or canned food until this year when they realized grocery stores could not supply all the food needed by war plant workers in their section. Mrs. Massey obtained Extension Service bulletins on canning and planned her home-preserved food supply according to the food budget recommended by the Extension Service.

In addition to canned vegetables and fruits, Mrs. Massey included an assortment of sweet spreads, pickles, and relishes, brined beans, and dried peas.

Pantry stores went on parade

■ Arkansas homemakers were given an opportunity to view adequate, high-quality, well-balanced food supplies during Parade of the Pantry Stores Week, sponsored by the Extension Service of the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture, October 15 to 20.

County activities during this week included tours to home demonstration club members' homes, displays in store windows, study of food supplies based on the "basic 7" food groups, and observation of proper storage facilities.

In Greene County, 11 stores had food-preservation displays prepared by the home demonstration clubs. Subjects for the displays included vitamins from the pantry shelf, a day's food supply from the pantry shelf, fall gardens, modern canning equipment, and a year's canning budget for one person.

One day of the week, Greene County club members gave demonstrations on canning tomato juice, testing jar lids and pressure cooker gauges, making kraut and brining pickles, and canning fruits and vegetables in a local theater. These demonstrations were given in one store window.

4-H Club members in this county also had a display. Each member was asked to bring two jars of canned food for a store window.

A 16-year-old 4-H Club member in Grant County made certain her family would not worry about a shortage of

food next winter. She followed a food-preservation budget which included not only canning, but brining, drying, and the making of jelly and preserves. This 4-H'er has carried a demonstration in food preservation since 1942 and, during this time, has canned 1,081 quarts of food. Her pantry stores were "on parade" during the week.

Ashley County homemakers had a store window exhibit of canned food. This food was sent to the Arkansas Children's Home and Hospital. Also emphasized in Ashley County was proper storage space. This included a visit to a newly built sweetpotato storage house.

Members of Logan County home demonstration clubs brought to their October club meetings one jar of canned food with a recipe for using this food. Canned foods were spotlighted during the week, and also emphasized in meetings and activities throughout the year.

A food preservation booth at the Farmer's Curb Market during the summer was sponsored by the Pulaski County home demonstration agents. They gave demonstrations on testing pressure cooker gauges, canning fruits and tomatoes, making sauerkraut, and preparing vegetables and fruits for drying. An exhibit of fruit, vegetables, and meats, along with a recommended canning budget, was also on display in the booth.

4-H forest tracts

4-H Club groups in Oregon have acquired a considerable number of timber tracts which throughout the years will serve a duplicate purpose of providing educational opportunities and recreational facilities, reports Dan D. Robinson, State extension forester. More than 500 4-H Club boys and girls attended forestry classes and field demonstrations at club summer schools and several county gatherings last summer.

The Oregon State Board of Forestry and several county courts have leased, sold, or designated tracts of timberlands to county 4-H Club leaders associations for use by clubs and other youth groups. These areas are administered by the leaders associations which are responsible for their use and development as outlined in advance agreements.

In selecting such areas, primary consideration is given to a good water supply, suitability for tree-planting sites and forest-management demonstration projects. As they are used also for recreational purposes, arrangements are usually made for adequate swimming facilities. Buildings are added and improved as time and funds permit with much improvement work contributed by parents and 4-H Club leaders.

Some of these areas will be developed for 4-H summer camps. The tracts are also used for overnight camping sites and week-end hikes by various other youth organizations in the neighborhood.



Flashes FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion Julia Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

■ Exploding atoms that work for science. One of the interesting demonstrations put on at Beltsville for Extension people in the quarterly tour in October involved the explosion of atoms, a subject in the forefront of everyone's thoughts today. True, the explosions we heard in the small Beltsville laboratory were no louder than the tick of a grandfather's clock, and this in itself is a happy confirmation of the hope that atomic power will have other than destructive uses. This particular use dates back further than 1941. The purpose is to determine the course of a mineral plant nutrient, such as phosphorus, from the soil through the plant, to find out in what part—stem, leaves, or fruit—the mineral is utilized, and if possible for what purpose.

Phosphorus is made radioactive by bombardment in the cyclotron at the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The material is bombarded by ions of heavy hydrogen, deuterons, until several atoms in each 100,000 have been changed into what is known as the "radioactive isotope." This change consists in the entrance of a neutron into the nucleus of a phosphorus atom, which increases the atomic weight from the normal value of 31 to 32. Such atoms are known as phosphorus 32. Their chemical and physical properties are unchanged, but the addition of a neutral particle makes the atom unstable and eventually causes the nucleus to "blow up" and eject a negative electron. Upon the ejection of this electron, the atom becomes a stable, nonradioactive atom of sulfur.

It is the radioactivity caused by the ejection of charged electrons that has been taken advantage of by soil and plant scientists to trace the course of phosphorus and other minerals through plants. A machine that registers the discharge of the electrons from the phosphorus 32 atoms is used to detect the presence of phosphorus containing such atoms. In this way, the passage of the irradiated phos-

phorus or other chemical can be traced through a plant which has taken it up from a soil or a solution to which it has been added, with far greater sensitivity than can be attained by the use of chemical methods. Frequent clicking of the machine indicates the presence of the charged atoms in the part of the plant held near the detector.

This is a much simplified explanation of a very technical subject, but it will serve to illustrate the possibilities of using for peaceful ends our new power to change the structure of atoms.

■ "Bomb" now available for civilians' use. The celebrated aerosol bomb, which has been so helpful in protecting the armed forces from certain insect pests and insect-borne diseases, is now available for purchase by civilians.

The standard 1-pound dispenser, which looks like a small bomb, contains an insecticide dissolved in a liquefied gas under pressure. When a valve is opened, the released material disperses into the air in the form of a fog or fine mist, which floats for some time in all parts of a room which has been treated. Because of this, aerosols are more effective against flying insects, such as houseflies, mosquitoes, and moths, which are killed on contact with the floating particles of insecticide, than they are in controlling crawling insects. In quantities sufficient to kill insects, aerosols are not poisonous or especially objectionable to man or most animals, but it may be well to close rooms and stay out of them for 15 to 20 minutes after treatment.

The production of insecticidal aerosols is covered by patents assigned to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Department licenses producers to make the aerosol according to prescribed standards. One standard formula that was used very effectively by the armed forces during the latter part of the war contains 3 percent of DDT and a suitable amount of purified

pyrethrum extract, and this combination is being used by some commercial producers.

■ Science can increase profits for turkey raisers. Department poultry specialists declare that the cost of producing turkeys can be reduced by at least a fourth by developing strains that excel in egg production and the fertility and hatchability of eggs. By selecting superior breeding stock, growers can produce birds that are ready for market a month earlier than has been thought possible.

Fairly extensive breeding and egg-production records are necessary to make the improvement of turkey flocks most successful. This is because selection by physical appearance alone has definite limitations. A breeder can judge or measure weight, conformation, feathering, and fattening, but to make selections on the basis of egg production, fertility, and hatchability, he must keep careful records.

Through the mating of superior birds, selected on their records, uniformly better birds can readily be produced, replacing in the markets turkeys of varying shapes, sizes, ages, colors, and quality.

■ Making red apples redder. In the 40-acre apple orchard at the Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Md., all the important commercial varieties occupy up to an acre each, and most other varieties that will grow in this region are represented by one to three trees each. In one 9-acre section of the orchard fruit specialists are testing out new red strains of the important varieties with a view to supplying the public with more red apples. Certainly a shiny, bright-red apple makes the mouth water more readily and pleases the teacher better than one that shades off to a brownish green.

■ How to freeze. A new circular, No. 709, Freezing to Preserve Home-Grown Foods, tells how to prepare vegetables, fruits, and meats for freezing. The effects of freezing on food products, requirements for effective packaging, storage temperature, handling foods taken from the freezer, cooking frozen foods, and detailed instructions for preparing meats, poultry, fish, all the common vegetables and fruits, eggs, and even butter are subjects covered in detail in the circular. Excellent illustrations of many of the steps described will help in following the directions.

Talking it over gives clearer understanding

D. C. DVORACEK, Extension Economist, Minnesota

■ Extension meetings mean more to Minnesota farm folks because they have learned to take an active part in them—to ask questions, to express their own ideas. By talking things over with their neighbors, they exchange ideas on problems of immediate mutual interest. They get a more complete picture of the situation and a clearer understanding of how they are affected and what they can do about it.

Discussion is an effective device for extension education and one that could be used more generally. Minnesota farm folks have been encouraged to express themselves through discussion meetings held in nearly 90 percent of the 87 counties of the State since 1935. That farm people like these meetings is indicated by practically a 100-percent approval of them in answer to recent questionnaires.

Experiment Proves Popular

The discussion meetings were begun in Minnesota in 1934-35 in 6 experimental counties, in each of which 6 topics were discussed. Because they were so successful, similar meetings were requested by and held in 42 counties the next year, with 1,150 local leaders taking part. Two State specialists trained these local leaders at county-wide meetings. Leaders who conducted local meetings reported a total attendance of 9,750 at 325 of their meetings that year. Among subjects discussed were: Foreign Trade and the Farmer, Principles of a Good Tax System, How Farm Prices Are Made, and Marketing Costs.

Because of the large number of requests for the meetings the following year, it was obvious that the one specialist available to conduct training meetings could not take care of all counties on the single county basis. For that reason, only 19 counties were accepted to hold meetings, and an experimental district training group serving five counties at each meeting was tried out. Each county sent four local leaders and the agricultural and home demonstration agents to the

meeting. This group was responsible for training local leaders in the county immediately following the district meeting.

One of the first counties to hold discussion meetings was Faribault County. By 1941, 46 men and women were taking part as local leaders in the county, leading meetings for 21 different rural groups. More than 500 farm families were participating in these meetings, discussing such topics as Inflation, Relations of Labor and Agriculture, Marketing Costs, and Reciprocal Trade Agreements.

Leaders Must Be Trained

The Minnesota plan has proved that people can be encouraged to take part in meetings—to ask questions and express their ideas informally—through the help of trained leaders. The most workable plan is to meet in small groups of 15 to 30 at first, using a topic on which the group has been informed. The aim is to get everyone in the group into the discussion.

Some discussion leaders are born, but most of them must be trained. Knowing how to lead a discussion is a big help. The way to start is by their taking part in a small discussion group in charge of an experienced leader. Such a group used for training discussion leaders becomes a demonstration by means of which the members learn the technique of discussion as well as get the practice.

Leaders Gain Confidence

After some experience in a discussion group, the next step is to try out discussion methods in casual conversation with a few friends to develop confidence in leading discussion. Having gained confidence and experience, the novice leader should try a small local meeting arranged for him by his county agent. The agent should supply or, better still, develop with the leader a list of questions on the topic. If possible, a set of answers should be prepared by the county agent or a State specialist as a source of reliable information.

Effective local-leader organization can go a long way toward fulfilling the aim of the Extension Service—to reach a large proportion of people effectively with information. Neighborhood leaders may well become trained discussion leaders to render this service and thus reach the last farmer down the road with current extension information, at the same time developing community unity and cooperation. First, however, leaders must be trained to use such information effectively. They must do more than just pass it on. They must help to develop an understanding and appreciation of that information that will result in action. For although people get much information promptly by radio and in daily papers, they can best obtain full understanding, appreciation, and application of such information by talking it over with others in similar circumstances—their neighbors.

Eventually, all individuals may become possible discussion leaders capable of taking their turn in leading discussions. This is not an idle dream. In some counties of Minnesota, groups have developed spontaneously in which the individual members take turns in leading meetings held every 3 weeks during 5 or 6 months of the year.

Members of discussion groups develop confidence, ability, and interest by active participation, not only in small groups but in larger meetings as well. Clearer understanding from "talking it over" is resulting in more things getting beyond the talking stage into the field of actual accomplishment.

A unique community

Among approximately 1,000 communities in Louisiana, participating in the "organized community" program sponsored by the Louisiana Agricultural Extension Service under direction of Mary Mims, extension sociologist, perhaps the most unique is the project undertaken by the girls of the State Industrial School. The girls organized a community for cooperative effort in May of this year.

One of the first projects of the group is the production of a publication known as The Weekly Chatter, devoted to the interests of the school, with editors and reporters recruited from among the girls themselves.

We Study Our Job

Farmers' almanac studied

More than 200 farmers and farm homemakers, living in four Louisiana parishes, were recently interviewed to find out if they read, understood, and made use of the Farmers' Almanac put out by the Louisiana Extension Service. The object of the survey was to determine the value of the 40-page booklet to the farm people and get some pointers for desirable changes for the 1946 edition.

The study brings out the importance of presenting information clearly and simply, avoiding phraseology which may be above the heads of average farm readers.

These conclusions were not gleaned by academic deductions. Earmarked sentences were lifted from the almanac and tried on the persons interviewed. They were stumped by such phrases as:

1. "... reduce grain ration . . .
2. . . . for succulent grazing . . .
3. Rotate poultry yards . . .
4. . . . for fall renovation.
5. Supplement permanent pastures . . .

It became apparent during the survey that the method of distribution was as important a factor in determining the use of the almanac as the way it was written. Most of the county agents participating in the study were interested on having the almanac issued another year and having it distributed in a different way.

The study was made under the direction of Marjorie B. Arbour, Louisiana extension editor, and Fred Williamson, associate editor, in cooperation with other staff members, and Ida Mason and Mrs. Laurel Sabrosky of the Federal Extension office.

The final report of this study has not yet been completed. Further information will be given in a later issue of the REVIEW.

How county extension agents use their time

The use of time by county extension workers has been approached from many points of view.

- A. Some extension people are concerned with the amount of time spent in the field compared to the amount spent in the office.
- B. Some want to know how much time is given to 4-H Club work, and how much to adult work.
- C. Some, how much time to planning and how much to getting action.
- D. Others, how much time to the use of various extension methods.

A. The county extension workers' reports indicate that approximately 60 percent of the working time is spent in the field and 40 percent in the office. Most extension workers seem to feel that time spent in the field is more effective than time spent in the office. This seems to be a matter of judgment only. There are very few facts available to substantiate this judgment.

B. The time devoted to 4-H Club work according to reports of county extension workers varies. The county agricultural agents spent about one-fifth of their time on this activity, home demonstration agents about one-third, and county club agents about seven-eighths. Taking the nation as a whole, as we have more county agricultural agents than home demonstration agents, the aggregate approximates the same number of days working with youth for both agents.

C. In recent years, about one-sixth of the time of extension workers is reported as used in extension organization and planning and five-sixths in getting action on what is planned. There is no evidence to show how the increased use of time during the past 10 years in extension organization and planning has influenced the effectiveness of extension work and the ability of farm people to analyze their local situation.

D. The amount of time devoted by county extension workers to the use of various extension methods is not accurately known. It is evident, however, that the demonstrations and demonstration meetings consumed the largest amount of time. The county agricultural agents devote more time to result demonstrations and result demonstration meetings than home

demonstration agents do. On the other hand, the home demonstration agents give three or four times as many hours a year to method demonstration meetings as the county agricultural agents do. The county agricultural agents give relatively more time to farm and home visits, news stories, telephone, and office calls. The home demonstration agents exceed the county agricultural agents in the time spent at leader-training meetings. The agricultural agents' time appears to be spent more extensively in dealing with farm people as individuals while home demonstration agents' time is spent in meeting them in groups.

The above national averages should be considered with three cautions. First, averages do not represent the best or most efficient use of time. An average year of a county extension worker's time results in the enrollment of 750 4-H Club members; but one-fourth of the States average more than 1,000 members or more, and another one-fourth, 600 members or less.

Second, the effective use of the various methods has to be adapted to the subject matter being taught. This has already been illustrated above in contrasting the amount of time devoted to various methods used in agriculture and home economics. Similarly time devoted to methods used in poultry counties would be quite different from time devoted to methods used in counties where production was predominately wheat or cotton.

Third, the amount of time devoted to an activity is not a complete measure of its effectiveness or the extent of the changes in human behavior that might result. Every extension method has its strong and weak points. One extension meeting may be primarily entertainment with very meager educational results, while another meeting may be devoted to arriving at a plan for action with very positive results.

■ One hundred and fifty-five 4-H boys in eastern Iowa are acting as corn-borer scouts this year and next. The scouts are making three surveys to check the corn-borer population.

= OKINAWA =
AGRICULTURE
EXPERIMENTAL
STATION

■ SGT. RICHARD F. MAYO, now of the U. S. Signal Corps, formerly of the Division of Information, AAA, U. S. Department of Agriculture, worked at the Okinawa Agricultural Experiment Station, established before the island was fully wrested from the Japanese. He has seen wide action in the Pacific and is now engaged in photographing a documentary film

about a "glorified gasoline pipe line." In a recent letter to his wife, Mrs. Margaret Mayo, of the Extension Service, he says he has not seen a county agent, a home demonstration agent, or a club agent in the Pacific war area, and the experiment station sign looks just right to him. Sergeant Mayo was wounded and decorated, but is back on the job now.

When buying new furniture

■ Many rural families are in the market for new furniture just as soon as more of it is available. Getting ready to help these families on their buying problems, 31 State home furnishings specialists, or some other member of the staff who works with furnishings, answered a questionnaire on what is needed to improve upholstered furniture, especially in the medium- and low-priced brackets.

Thus pooling their experiences, they found that there was a need for pieces which were not so bulky and were better suited to the scale of the ordinary living room. Wooden arms were suggested instead of upholstered arms which homemakers had found a cleaning problem. The need for good proportion in the arms, seats and backs of upholstered furniture was brought out. Seats and backs could

be better shaped and slanted to fit the average body proportions. The specialists asked for more good structural design and less applied design in the low- and medium-priced furniture. They wanted sturdy framework and inner construction and would like to see the use of upholstered fabrics that are "treated" to make them easier to clean especially on moderately priced furniture.

Having agreed on these few simple points in which low-priced furniture could be improved, the specialists got in touch with the National Association of Furniture Manufacturers and some mail order houses to tell them what some of the average housewives were thinking about when they went to buy upholstered furniture. Many individual specialists also discussed the matter with furniture manufacturers

in their State. As more furniture is made and appears on the market, they hope that it will be better suited to the needs of the homemaker.

The study was directed by a committee of five home furnishings extension specialists from various sections of the nation, appointed at the home furnishings and home management extension specialists' session at the 1944 national home-economics meeting in Chicago. The committee included the following home furnishings specialists: Anne Biebricher, of Ohio, chairman; Florence E. Wright, of New York; Ruth Jamison, of Virginia; Lois A. Lutz, of Oregon; and Blanche Zaring, of Indiana.

■ HERBERT SHARP NICHOLS, assistant director of the Agricultural Extension Service and pioneer Tennessee extension worker, died at Knoxville, October 22, at 2:30 a.m.

Born at Starkville, Miss., in 1885 and a graduate of Mississippi A. and M., he came to Tennessee on December 10, 1910 as the second employee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work, which became the Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service under the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914. Thus he was the oldest extension worker in point of service in the State, lacking only a few months of giving 35 years of distinguished service to the cause of Betterment of rural life, an interest that was always closest to his heart.

He served as district agent in west Tennessee until 1934 when he became State field agent with headquarters at Knoxville. In 1936, he became assistant director in charge of county agent work, a position he held until his death.

No extension worker in the State was more widely known or better liked by both extension workers and farm people generally. He left his imprint for "better homes on better farms" in every community of the State. He was equally at home in a cabin by the side of a cottonfield as in a palatial home of a plantation owner. Both counseled with him—called him friend and adviser.

In 1935 he was honored with a dinner by his fellow extension workers.

In 1937 he was awarded a certificate of recognition by Epsilon Sigma Phi, National Honorary Extension Fraternity, for outstanding service as an extension worker.

The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

"BUILDING THE PEACE" is the theme of a reading program adopted by the home demonstration clubs of North Dakota at their county council meetings last month. Leader-training schools were held early in the fall at four points in the State in cooperation with the Free Library Commission. The commission also prepares a book list and maintains a reserve book section for the use of home demonstration leaders. So as to appreciate the problems in building the peace the women will study to understand the background, culture, and history of some other country. They will hold discussions on Russia and China and devote time at one club meeting to children's books. The music program of the year will supplement this with a study of "Harmony around the world."

A CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE was well marked at the annual meeting of the National Home Demonstration Council in Columbus, Ohio, last month. The report of the resolutions committee read: "Although we have won a great victory on the battle-fields, we still have peace to win on the home front during this reconversion period. We present the following resolutions for the establishment of a lasting peace and the further development of the American home as a part of the world home." The resolutions called for emphasis on wise expenditure of savings, more education in nutrition, a definite plan for recreation in the home, study of other countries to promote better understanding between nations, more study of the United Nations Charter to understand the effect it will have on our way of living. There were about 250 women attending, representing 22 States. The largest delegation was from the hostess State of Ohio, though Kentucky across the line brought more than 50 delegates. New officers are Mrs. J. Wayne Reiner of West Virginia, president; Mrs. W. M. Byrnes of Ethel, La., vice president; Mrs. Roland Campbell of Muncie, Kans., secretary; and Mrs. Gray of Michigan, treasurer.

CHARLES L. CHAMBERS, agriculturist of the Federal Extension Service, died Saturday, November 24. Mr. Chambers had been with the Federal Extension Service for 28 years. A more complete account will be published in the January issue.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD, United States Liaison Committee met in Columbus, Ohio, following the meeting of the National Home Demonstration Council, with the chairman, Mrs. Spencer Ewing of Bloomington, Ill., presiding. The program was built around the theme, "The world is a community." An interesting report was that of the gift of tea towels which the women of America are sending to the women of England. With the scarcity of fabric in England, tea towels are hard to get and are included in the clothing ration. As a small gesture of friendship, a great many tea towels were made from feed sacks and other material by American women and sent to their sisters in England.

REMODELING THE NEW ENGLAND HOME was the topic of discussion at a conference called in Boston early in November. Agricultural engineers, home management specialists, and State home demonstration agents attended to discuss

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Division of Extension Information
Lester A. Schlup, Chief

CLARA L. BAILEY, Editor
DOROTHY L. BIGELOW, Editorial Assistant
GERTRUDE L. POWER, Art Editor

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problems in remodeling rural homes. Consultants from the New England Industrial Council reported on the latest in insulation, new building materials, electrification, heating, and cooperatives. Research workers from the Department of Agriculture reported on studies under way there. The conferences recommended the establishment of State college housing committees in the New England States and agreed to continue their cooperative program for New England as a whole during the coming year.

THE NATIONAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE held early this month brought to Washington more than 100 agricultural economists and about 50 home economists, with practically all the States represented. The first 3 days were devoted to the general outlook for agriculture and family living in the United States. Experts from the Federal Reserve Board, the Reconversion Administration, and other government agencies took part in the conference. The last 2 days were devoted to a more detailed outlook for family living for the home economists, farm management for the agricultural economists, and a joint session on extension methods.

A THOUSAND THANKS came to County Agent M. U. (Red) Mounts of Palm Beach County, Fla., from the farmers in the Everglades region. They presented him with a check for \$1,000 as an expression of appreciation for his services in helping them develop agriculture there during the past 20 years.

THE WIVES OF SERVICEMEN establishing new homes in North Dakota are getting special attention in the State's home demonstration clubs, reports Grace DeLong, State home demonstration leader. A stamped card is given out to each local leader. She fills it out whenever she hears of a serviceman setting up a home in her neighborhood. The card is sent to the home demonstration agent who arranges a visit to the home as early as possible to find out if the homemaker has any special problems and to tell her of the help the home demonstration clubs can give.